

What Is Claimed Is:

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1. An image processing system comprising:
calculating means, which calculate degree of
5 similarity among a plurality of image frames of dynamic image
data;

determining means, which determine scene-change
frames based on the degree of similarity calculated by said
calculating means; and

10 dynamic image means, which perform automatic editing
and preparation of a digest dynamic image of the dynamic image
data by merging frames for a specified duration of each scene
delimited by a scene change.

15 2. The image processing system according to claim 1,
further comprising:

detecting means, which detect blank scenes; and

103 exception processing means, which perform exception
processing in which an initial image frame after exclusion
20 of a blank scene detected at the beginning of the dynamic
image by said detecting means is deemed a scene-change frame.

3. The image processing system according to claim 2,
wherein said exception processing means also perform
25 exception processing in which a final image frame after
exclusion of a blank scene detected at the end of the dynamic

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image by said detecting means is deemed a scene-change frame.

4. The image processing system according to claim 3,
wherein when a time difference between scene-change frames
5 of two scenes in close proximity is less than said specified
duration, frames from the scene-change frame of the first
scene through a frame the specified duration from the
scene-change frame of the second scene are treated as the
result of merging of the scene-change frames of the two
10 scenes.

5. The image processing system according to claim 4,
wherein when the scene-change frame of a second scene to be
merged falls within a specified duration from the scene-
15 change frame of a first scene, instead of merging frames for
a specified duration, only frames through the scene-change
frame of the second scene are merged.

6. The image processing system according to claim 5,
20 wherein when a mode which provides a target duration for the
completed digest dynamic image has been indicated, a digest
having a duration in the vicinity of the target duration is
prepared by first finding all of the scene-change frames of
the dynamic image, and then performing processing for merging
25 scenes into the digest preferentially, beginning with scenes
whose scene-change frame has a low degree of similarity to

the immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

7. The image processing system according to claim 6,
wherein when there are few scene changes, and the digest
5 dynamic image is more than a certain threshold value shorter
than the indicated duration, a digest having a duration in
the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by gradually
increasing the specified duration for addition of each scene.

10 8. The image processing system according to claim 7,
wherein for a dynamic image for which no scene change has
been detected, if there is a blank scene at the beginning
of the dynamic image, the blank scene is excluded, and frames
are extracted from the first non-blank scene for the target
15 duration and treated as the digest dynamic image.

9. An image processing method comprising the steps of:
calculating degree of similarity among a plurality of
image frames of dynamic image data;
20 determining scene-change frames based on the
calculated degree of similarity; and
performing automatic editing and preparation of a
digest dynamic image of the dynamic image data by merging
frames for a specified duration from each scene-change frame.

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10. The image processing method according to claim 9,

comprising the further step of:

detecting blank scenes; and

performing exception processing in which an initial
image frame after exclusion of a blank scene detected at the
beginning of the dynamic image is deemed a scene-change
5 frame.

11. The image processing method according to claim 10,
further comprising the step of:

10 performing exception processing in which a final image
frame after exclusion of a blank scene detected at the end
of the dynamic image is deemed a scene-change frame.

12. The image processing method according to claim 11,
15 wherein when a time difference between scene-change frames
of two scenes in close proximity is less than said specified
duration, frames from the scene-change frame of the first
scene through a frame the specified duration from the
scene-change frame of the second scene are treated as the
20 result of merging of the scene-change frames of the two
scenes.

13. The image processing method according to claim 12,
wherein when the scene-change frame of a second scene to be
25 merged falls within a specified duration from the scene-
change frame of a first scene, instead of merging frames for

a specified duration, only frames through the scene-change frame of the second scene are merged.

14. The image processing method according to claim 13,
5 wherein when a mode has been indicated which provides a target duration for the completed digest dynamic image, a digest having a duration in the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by first finding all of the scene-change frames of the dynamic image, and then performing processing for merging
10 scenes into the digest preferentially, beginning with scenes whose scene-change frame has a low degree of similarity to the immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

15. The image processing method according to claim 14,
15 wherein when there are few scene changes, and the digest dynamic image is more than a certain threshold value shorter than the indicated duration, a digest having a duration in the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by gradually increasing the specified duration for addition of each scene.

20 16. The image processing system according to claim 15, wherein for a dynamic image for which no scene change has been detected, if there is a blank scene at the beginning of the dynamic image, the blank scene is excluded, and frames
25 are extracted from the first non-blank scene for the target duration and treated as the digest dynamic image.

17. A recording medium recording program code of an image processing method comprising the steps of:

calculating degree of similarity among a plurality of
5 image frames of dynamic image data;

determining scene-change frames based on the
calculated degree of similarity; and

performing automatic editing and preparation of a
digest dynamic image of the dynamic image data by merging
10 frames for a specified duration from each scene-change frame.

18. An image processing system comprising:

calculating means for calculating degree of similarity
among a plurality of image frames of dynamic image data;

15 determining means for determining scene-change frames
based on degree of similarity calculated by said calculating
means; and

dynamic image means which perform automatic editing
and preparation of a digest dynamic image of the dynamic image
20 data by merging a specified duration of frames having a low
degree of similarity with an immediately preceding frame or
some preceding frames.

19. The image processing system according to claim 18,
25 wherein on receipt of instructions to prepare a dynamic
digest, said dynamic image means merge a specified duration

of frames within a scene which have a low degree of similarity with an immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

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20. An image processing system comprising:
5 calculating means for calculating degree of similarity among a plurality of image frames of dynamic image data;
determining means for determining scene-change frames
8 based on degree of similarity calculated by said calculating means; and
10 dynamic image means which perform automatic editing and preparation of a digest dynamic image of the dynamic image data by merging a specified duration of frames having a high degree of similarity with an immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

15 21. The image processing system according to claim 20, wherein on receipt of instructions to prepare a quiet digest,
c said dynamic image means merge a specified duration of frames within a scene which have a high degree of similarity with
20 an immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

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22. The image processing system according to claim 18, further comprising:
detecting means, which detect blank scenes; and
25 exception processing means, which perform exception processing in which an initial image frame after exclusion

of a blank scene detected at the beginning of the dynamic image by said detecting means is deemed a scene-change frame.

23. The image processing system according to claim 19,
5 further comprising:

detecting means, which detect blank scenes; and
exception processing means, which perform exception processing in which an initial image frame after exclusion of a blank scene detected at the beginning of the dynamic
10 image by said detecting means is deemed a scene-change frame.

24. The image processing system according to claim 20,
further comprising:

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15 0 detecting means, which detect blank scenes; and
exception processing means, which perform exception processing in which an initial image frame after exclusion of a blank scene detected at the beginning of the dynamic image by said detecting means is deemed a scene-change frame.

20 25. The image processing system according to claim 21,
further comprising:

0 detecting means, which detect blank scenes; and
exception processing means, which perform exception processing in which an initial image frame after exclusion
25 of a blank scene detected at the beginning of the dynamic image by said detecting means is deemed a scene-change frame.

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26. The image processing system according to claim 22,
wherein said exception processing means also perform
exception processing in which a final image frame after
5 exclusion of a blank scene detected at the end of the dynamic
image by said detecting means is deemed a scene-change frame.

27. The image processing system according to claim 23,
wherein said exception processing means also perform
10 exception processing in which a final image frame after
exclusion of a blank scene detected at the end of the dynamic
image by said detecting means is deemed a scene-change frame.

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28. The image processing system according to claim 24,
15 wherein said exception processing means also perform
exception processing in which a final image frame after
6 exclusion of a blank scene detected at the end of the dynamic
image by said detecting means is deemed a scene-change frame.

29. The image processing system according to claim 25,
20 wherein said exception processing means also perform
0 exception processing in which a final image frame after
exclusion of a blank scene detected at the end of the dynamic
image by said detecting means is deemed a scene-change frame.

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30. The image processing system according to claim 26,

wherein when a time difference between scene-change frames of two scenes in close proximity is less than said specified duration, frames from the scene-change frame of the first scene through a frame the specified duration from the scene-change frame of the second scene are treated as the result of merging of the scene-change frames of the two scenes.

31. The image processing system according to claim 27, wherein when a time difference between scene-change frames of two scenes in close proximity is less than said specified duration, frames from the scene-change frame of the first scene through a frame the specified duration from the scene-change frame of the second scene are treated as the result of merging of the scene-change frames of the two scenes.

Sub A2 } 32. The image processing system according to claim 28, wherein when a time difference between scene-change frames of two scenes in close proximity is less than said specified duration, frames from the scene-change frame of the first scene through a frame the specified duration from the scene-change frame of the second scene are treated as the result of merging of the scene-change frames of the two scenes.

33. The image processing system according to claim 29,
wherein when a time difference between scene-change frames
of two scenes in close proximity is less than said specified
duration, frames from the scene-change frame of the first
5 scene through a frame the specified duration from the
scene-change frame of the second scene are treated as the
result of merging of the scene-change frames of the two
scenes.

5/6 A2 > 10 34. The image processing system according to claim 30,
wherein when the scene-change frame of a second scene to be
merged falls within a specified duration from the scene-
change frame of a first scene, instead of merging frames for
a specified duration, only frames through the scene-change
15 frame of the second scene are merged.

35. The image processing system according to claim 31,
wherein when the scene-change frame of a second scene to be
merged falls within a specified duration from the scene-
20 change frame of a first scene, instead of merging frames for
a specified duration, only frames through the scene-change
frame of the second scene are merged.

5/6 A2 > 25 36. The image processing system according to claim 32,
wherein when the scene-change frame of a second scene to be
merged falls within a specified duration from the scene-

change frame of a first scene, instead of merging frames for a specified duration, only frames through the scene-change frame of the second scene are merged.

5 37. The image processing system according to claim 33,
wherein when the scene-change frame of a second scene to be
merged falls within a specified duration from the scene-
change frame of a first scene, instead of merging frames for
a specified duration, only frames through the scene-change
10 frame of the second scene are merged.

38. The image processing system according to claim 34,
wherein when a mode has been indicated which provides a target
duration for the completed digest dynamic image, a digest
15 having a duration in the vicinity of the target duration is
prepared by first finding all of the scene-change frames of
the dynamic image, and then performing processing for merging
scenes into the digest preferentially, beginning with scenes
whose scene-change frame has a low degree of similarity to
20 the immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

39. The image processing system according to claim 35,
wherein when a mode has been indicated which provides a target
duration for the completed digest dynamic image, a digest
25 having a duration in the vicinity of the target duration is
prepared by first finding all of the scene-change frames of

the dynamic image, and then performing processing for merging scenes into the digest preferentially, beginning with scenes whose scene-change frame has a low degree of similarity to the immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

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40. The image processing system according to claim 36, wherein when a mode has been indicated which provides a target duration for the completed digest dynamic image, a digest having a duration in the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by first finding all of the scene-change frames of the dynamic image, and then performing processing for merging scenes into the digest preferentially, beginning with scenes whose scene-change frame has a low degree of similarity to the immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

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41. The image processing system according to claim 37, wherein when a mode has been indicated which provides a target duration for the completed digest dynamic image, a digest having a duration in the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by first finding all of the scene-change frames of the dynamic image, and then performing processing for merging scenes into the digest preferentially, beginning with scenes whose scene-change frame has a low degree of similarity to the immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

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42. The image processing system according to claim 38,

wherein when there are few scene changes, and the digest
dynamic image is more than a certain threshold value shorter
than the indicated duration, a digest having a duration in
the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by gradually
5 increasing the specified duration for addition of each scene.

43. The image processing system according to claim 39,
wherein when there are few scene changes, and the digest
dynamic image is more than a certain threshold value shorter
10 than the indicated duration, a digest having a duration in
the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by gradually
increasing the specified duration for addition of each scene.

44. The image processing system according to claim 40,
15 wherein when there are few scene changes, and the digest
dynamic image is more than a certain threshold value shorter
than the indicated duration, a digest having a duration in
the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by gradually
increasing the specified duration for addition of each scene.

45. The image processing system according to claim 41,
wherein when there are few scene changes, and the digest
dynamic image is more than a certain threshold value shorter
than the indicated duration, a digest having a duration in
25 the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by gradually
increasing the specified duration for addition of each scene.

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46. The image processing system according to claim 42,
wherein for a dynamic image for which no scene change has
been detected, if there is a blank scene at the beginning
5 of the dynamic image, the blank scene is excluded, and frames
are extracted from the first non-blank scene for the target
duration and treated as the digest dynamic image.

47. The image processing system according to claim 43,
10 wherein for a dynamic image for which no scene change has
been detected, if there is a blank scene at the beginning
of the dynamic image, the blank scene is excluded, and frames
are extracted from the first non-blank scene for the target
duration and treated as the digest dynamic image.

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48. The image processing system according to claim 44,
wherein for a dynamic image for which no scene change has
been detected, if there is a blank scene at the beginning
of the dynamic image, the blank scene is excluded, and frames
20 are extracted from the first non-blank scene for the target
duration and treated as the digest dynamic image.

49. The image processing system according to claim 45,
wherein for a dynamic image for which no scene change has
25 been detected, if there is a blank scene at the beginning
of the dynamic image, the blank scene is excluded, and frames

are extracted from the first non-blank scene for the target duration and treated as the digest dynamic image.

513 A2 > 50. The image processing system according to claim 18,
5 wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

51. The image processing system according to claim 19,
10 wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

516 A2 > 52. The image processing system according to claim 20,
15 wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

53. The image processing system according to claim 21,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

516 A2 > 20 54. The image processing system according to claim 22,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

55. The image processing system according to claim 23,
25 wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

56. The image processing system according to claim 24,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

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57. The image processing system according to claim 25,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

58. The image processing system according to claim 26,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

59. The image processing system according to claim 27,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

60. The image processing system according to claim 28,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

61. The image processing system according to claim 29,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

62. The image processing system according to claim 30,

wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

63. The image processing system according to claim 31,
5 wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

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64. The image processing system according to claim 32,
10 wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

65. The image processing system according to claim 33,
15 wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

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66. The image processing system according to claim 34,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

20 67. The image processing system according to claim 35,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

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25 68. The image processing system according to claim 36,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

69. The image processing system according to claim 37,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

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70. The image processing system according to claim 38,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

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71. The image processing system according to claim 39,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

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72. The image processing system according to claim 40,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

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73. The image processing system according to claim 41,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

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74. The image processing system according to claim 42,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

75. The image processing system according to claim 43,

wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

5 76. The image processing system according to claim 44,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

10 77. The image processing system according to claim 45,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

15 78. The image processing system according to claim 46,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

79. The image processing system according to claim 47,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

20 80. The image processing system according to claim 48,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

25 81. The image processing system according to claim 49,
wherein a user is able to select and specify whether to save
a digest as a file, or replay the digest and discard the data.

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82. An image processing method comprising the steps of:
calculating degree of similarity among a plurality of
image frames of dynamic image data;

5 determining scene-change frames based on the
calculated degree of similarity; and

performing automatic editing and preparation of a
digest dynamic image of the dynamic image data by merging
from each scene delimited by a scene change a specified
10 duration of frames having a low degree of similarity with
an immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

83. The image processing method according to claim 82,
wherein on receipt of instructions to prepare a dynamic
15 digest, a specified duration of frames within a scene which
have a low degree of similarity with an immediately preceding
frame or some preceding frames are merged.

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20 84. An image processing method comprising the steps of:
calculating degree of similarity among a plurality of
image frames of dynamic image data;

determining scene-change frames based on the
calculated degree of similarity; and

performing automatic editing and preparation of a
25 digest dynamic image of the dynamic image data by merging
from each scene delimited by a scene change a specified

duration of frames having a high degree of similarity with an immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

85. The image processing method according to claim 84,
5 wherein on receipt of instructions to prepare a quiet digest,
a specified duration of frames within a scene which have a
high degree of similarity with an immediately preceding frame
or some preceding frames are merged.

Sub A2 > 10 86. The image processing method according to claim 82,
further comprising the steps of:
detecting blank scenes; and
performing exception processing in which an initial
image frame after exclusion of a blank scene detected at the
15 beginning of the dynamic image by said detecting means is
deemed a scene-change frame.

87. The image processing method according to claim 83,
further comprising the steps of:
20 detecting blank scenes; and
performing exception processing in which an initial
image frame after exclusion of a blank scene detected at the
beginning of the dynamic image by said detecting means is
deemed a scene-change frame.

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Sub A2 > 88. The image processing method according to claim 84,

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92. The image processing method according to claim 88,
further comprising the step of:

performing exception processing in which a final image
5 frame after exclusion of a blank scene detected at the end
of the dynamic image is deemed a scene-change frame.

93. The image processing method according to claim 89,
further comprising the step of:

10 performing exception processing in which a final image
frame after exclusion of a blank scene detected at the end
of the dynamic image is deemed a scene-change frame.

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15 94. The image processing method according to claim 90,
wherein when a time difference between scene-change frames
of two scenes in close proximity is less than said specified
duration, frames from the scene-change frame of the first
scene through a frame the specified duration from the
scene-change frame of the second scene are treated as the
20 result of merging of the scene-change frames of the two
scenes.

95. The image processing method according to claim 91,
wherein when a time difference between scene-change frames
25 of two scenes in close proximity is less than said specified
duration, frames from the scene-change frame of the first

scene through a frame the specified duration from the scene-change frame of the second scene are treated as the result of merging of the scene-change frames of the two scenes.

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96. The image processing method according to claim 92, wherein when a time difference between scene-change frames of two scenes in close proximity is less than said specified duration, frames from the scene-change frame of the first scene through a frame the specified duration from the scene-change frame of the second scene are treated as the result of merging of the scene-change frames of the two scenes.

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97. The image processing method according to claim 93, wherein when a time difference between scene-change frames of two scenes in close proximity is less than said specified duration, frames from the scene-change frame of the first scene through a frame the specified duration from the scene-change frame of the second scene are treated as the result of merging of the scene-change frames of the two scenes.

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98. The image processing method according to claim 94, wherein when the scene-change frame of a second scene to be merged falls within a specified duration from the scene-

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change frame of a first scene, instead of merging frames for a specified duration, only frames through the scene-change frame of the second scene are merged.

5 99. The image processing method according to claim 95, wherein when the scene-change frame of a second scene to be merged falls within a specified duration from the scene-change frame of a first scene, instead of merging frames for a specified duration, only frames through the scene-change
10 frame of the second scene are merged.

56A2 100. The image processing method according to claim 96, wherein when the scene-change frame of a second scene to be merged falls within a specified duration from the scene-
15 change frame of a first scene, instead of merging frames for a specified duration, only frames through the scene-change frame of the second scene are merged.

101. The image processing method according to claim 97,
20 wherein when the scene-change frame of a second scene to be merged falls within a specified duration from the scene-change frame of a first scene, instead of merging frames for a specified duration, only frames through the scene-change frame of the second scene are merged.

25 102. The image processing method according to claim 98,

wherein when a mode has been indicated which provides a target duration for the completed digest dynamic image, a digest having a duration in the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by first finding all of the scene-change frames of the dynamic image, and then performing processing for merging scenes into the digest preferentially, beginning with scenes whose scene-change frame has a low degree of similarity to the immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

103. The image processing method according to claim 99, wherein when a mode has been indicated which provides a target duration for the completed digest dynamic image, a digest having a duration in the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by first finding all of the scene-change frames of the dynamic image, and then performing processing for merging scenes into the digest preferentially, beginning with scenes whose scene-change frame has a low degree of similarity to the immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

Sub A2 > 104. The image processing method according to claim 100, wherein when a mode has been indicated which provides a target duration for the completed digest dynamic image, a digest having a duration in the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by first finding all of the scene-change frames of the dynamic image, and then performing processing for merging scenes into the digest preferentially, beginning with scenes

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108. The image processing method according to claim 104, wherein when there are few scene changes, and the digest dynamic image is more than a certain threshold value shorter than the indicated duration, a digest having a duration in the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by gradually increasing the specified duration for addition of each scene.

109. The image processing method according to claim 105, wherein when there are few scene changes, and the digest dynamic image is more than a certain threshold value shorter than the indicated duration, a digest having a duration in the vicinity of the target duration is prepared by gradually increasing the specified duration for addition of each scene.

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110. The image processing method according to claim 106, wherein for a dynamic image for which no scene change has been detected, if there is a blank scene at the beginning of the dynamic image, the blank scene is excluded, and frames are extracted from the first non-blank scene for the target duration and treated as the digest dynamic image.

111. The image processing method according to claim 107, wherein for a dynamic image for which no scene change has been detected, if there is a blank scene at the beginning of the dynamic image, the blank scene is excluded, and frames

are extracted from the first non-blank scene for the target duration and treated as the digest dynamic image.

5 112. The image processing method according to claim 108, wherein for a dynamic image for which no scene change has been detected, if there is a blank scene at the beginning of the dynamic image, the blank scene is excluded, and frames are extracted from the first non-blank scene for the target duration and treated as the digest dynamic image.

10 113. The image processing method according to claim 109, wherein for a dynamic image for which no scene change has been detected, if there is a blank scene at the beginning of the dynamic image, the blank scene is excluded, and frames
15 are extracted from the first non-blank scene for the target duration and treated as the digest dynamic image.

506 Ar > 114. A recording medium recording program code of an image processing method comprising the steps of:
20 calculating degree of similarity among a plurality of image frames of dynamic image data;
determining scene-change frames based on the calculated degree of similarity; and
performing automatic editing and preparation of a
25 digest dynamic image of the dynamic image data by merging from each scene delimited by a scene change a specified

duration of frames having a low degree of similarity with an immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.

115. A recording medium recording program code of an image processing method comprising the steps of:

calculating degree of similarity among a plurality of image frames of dynamic image data;

determining scene-change frames based on the calculated degree of similarity; and

10 performing automatic editing and preparation of a digest dynamic image of the dynamic image data by merging from each scene delimited by a scene change a specified duration of frames having a high degree of similarity with an immediately preceding frame or some preceding frames.